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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36522 (E) 130605

Eradicating poverty

Education is the key to eliminating poverty around the world.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council has been successful in building schools, health clinics and establishing local businesses in villages in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe — all with private donations and with teams of volunteer teachers, doctors, nurses and construction workers.

Abeer, a woman from Kafi Dam, West Bank, who has participated in Orthodox Christian Charities programmes stated that having had the opportunity to learn had transformed her life. Her self-worth and the respect of her community had come with the education and skills she had acquired in that forgotten village. These efforts have focused on education for all men, women, and children, as well as on women's empowerment and job creation. Orthodox Charities continues to focus on education and skills training based on the conviction that sustainable development comes with knowledge.

This is the best example of how progress is achieved in the grass roots of societies. Therefore we conclude that non-governmental organizations should work in partnership with Governments and businesses to achieve the goal of establishing education for all in villages around the world by providing funds, textbooks, equipment and training directly to the villages, as well as providing local expertise and promoting anti-corruption initiatives. This would have a trickle-up effect, rather than a trickle-down effect, which, unfortunately, is usually prey to corruption.

How to advance recommendations on a Millennium Development Goal-based approach to poverty reduction

In order to achieve the far-reaching Millennium Development Goals, a set of anti-poverty targets agreed to by world leaders at a 2000 United Nations Summit, Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed on 21 March 2005 that all developed States allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to official development assistance no later than 2015. Since many United States of America NGOs, United States individuals such as Bill Gates and Ted Turner, and United States corporations such as McGraw-Hill, make huge donations to developing countries, the Secretary-General's proposal of the allocation of 0.7 per cent of a country's gross national income should also include the donations of these private donors. This would make the amount of the United States contribution to development assistance more realistic.

Freedom of fear

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council endorses the Secretary-General's call to work together to prevent catastrophic terrorism, stop proliferation of deadly weapons, end civil wars and build lasting peace in war-torn countries.

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Statement submitted by Fondation internationale carrefour, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2005/100.

05-36528 (E) 130605 140605

In parallel with its growing international presence, in July 2000 Carrefour set up a corporate foundation in order to coordinate actions of international scope so as to identify universal causes by adopting a multinational and multicultural approach.

Following on from its country-level patronage, designed to foster the image of a socially responsible company, Carrefour decided to set up a second independent structure to intervene in such areas as humanitarian action, health, scientific and medical research, culture, education, the fight against exclusion and protection of the environment.

The President of Carrefour then made a clear choice by deciding to provide for a budget of 4.6 million euros a year, for five renewable years and also to establish a Board of Directors composed of recognized individuals who would play an active part and be good decision-makers.

He chose to entrust the keys of this Foundation to a professional from outside the company who was selected because his qualities matched the Foundation's objectives.

The Foundation's Director, Jean-Marie Fonrouge, was an anaesthetist, a specialist in emergency and disaster medicine and a doctor in public international law. He taught disaster medicine at several faculties in Europe, Latin America and Africa. For five years, he dedicated himself to setting up the Fondation internationale carrefour and preparing it to become one of the main stakeholders in international development. Accordingly, in July 2001, the Foundation established "official relations" with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In 2003 it attained consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to produce a manual entitled "Good practices for the meat industry", and from 2001 to October 2004 it formed a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and its World Alliance of Cities against Poverty initiative.

As an emergency doctor, he established a specific method of intervention that allowed for an "immediate" reaction and a response tailored to needs by establishing effective cooperation between the Foundation, on the one hand, and national Governments and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, on the other.

For there is no action recognized by the emergency community without the ability to reproduce a high-quality response, specific resources, good relations and rapid delivery.

Directing a foundation is a delicate exercise that requires a range of different abilities: making choices, listening, adopting a project to meet requirements, saying yes and knowing when to say no even at the risk of upsetting people.

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Statement submitted by People's Decade for Human Rights Education, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36534 (E) 160605

The Millennium Development Goals as human rights learning: building the capacities of the claim holders through learning as empowerment

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will for the most part depend upon the awareness of all members of the human family that they are legitimate claimants of inherent dignity and inalienable human rights and, even more, upon their capacities to claim them. The fundamental purpose of human rights learning is the development of the requisite consciousness and capacities of all women and men in all parts of the world. The most effective route to the fulfillment of that purpose is the learning and dialogue centered approach advocated by the Global Appeal for Human Rights Learning, signed by more than thirty world leaders and issued on December 10, 2004 by PDHRE.

Jeffery Sachs wrote that the *issues affecting cities in the face of rapid decentralization, democratization, and globalization were crucially important to developing countries*. In order to achieve the far-reaching MDGs and solve these issues, the Secretary-General is asking all developing countries to adopt a comprehensive national strategy bold enough to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and to mobilize all its resources behind that strategy. We at PDHRE, drawing on our experience in the field, claim that the answer lies is the learning about human rights across all sectors of society.

Even though human rights are being enunciated, in discussions about the MDG approach there is no development approach to the human rights agenda. The Global Appeal for Human Rights Learning proposes a viable strategy, for truly achieving the freedoms from fear and want.

The global Appeal derives from PDHRE's long years of experience in initiating and facilitating human rights education with communities and organizations in all parts of the world. PDHRE has demonstrated that there is a robust, integral relationship between learning and empowerment. The participatory and autonomous learning of people intent on the realization of their inherent dignity has enabled them to develop awareness of their fundamental human rights and to acquire the capacities to achieve the changes necessary to realize them. There is no greater obstacle to the realization of human dignity than the extreme and chronic poverty that has inspired the MDGs. Human rights learning is the most effective route to building the capacities of the poor themselves, the claimants of those human rights integral to the MDGs.

There are questions raised that call for answers. Kofi Annan said that from pragmatic beginnings could emerge a visionary change of direction in the world. That was the opportunity and the challenge. Indeed the worldwide human rights cities program being developed by PDHRE is an answer to this challenge. In these cities the learning about human rights at the community level is an effective strategy for achieving human security and social, economic transformation, a pragmatic way to effect societal development and sustainable change. This work can mark the "dramatic changes" called for by the SG, and will strengthen a participatory MDG process.

Furthermore, discussions held by ECOSOC speak on building state capacity to meet the MDGs, including governance, institutions, human resources and human rights. What is missing in these discussions is the clear recognition that poverty is the negation of dignity and of development and is a human rights violation. Poverty denies the capacity to achieve human rights, and to assure good governance. Poverty negates the human rights to live in dignity. Human rights learning in effect is human rights capacity-building to meet the MDGs. Learning is the acquisition of human rights. Learning is development. The notion of development is only 60 years old and we can consciously through community actions develop a common vision for development. The learning about human rights is a key issue which should be addressed and assessed by heads of States in the Millenium+5 Summit.

The SG report speaks of human rights as essential to achieving the MDGs. However, it does not say how human rights can be used for achieving the MDG. The report does not speak of the operationalization of the HR dimension of our future. On the other hand PDHRE takes a development approach to the acquisition of human dignity through human rights learning. Others have noted the integral relationships between human rights and the MDGs. They have advocated a human rights based approach to their implementation and have referred to them as *a human rights agenda*. These points of advocacy are evidence supporting the case for human rights learning as the primary method of capacity-building on the ground among those whose human rights are most severely deprived by ever worsening world poverty. It is, therefore, an urgent necessity that human rights learning be fully integrated into the implementation strategies, including the targets and indicators that comprise all programs and plans for the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals. Toward this end relevant human rights learning guidelines for the empowerment of the claimants should be adopted.

Current issues in the global agenda to which human rights learning may be regarded as of critical importance are the quest for global order and reforms aimed at shaping institutional changes:

- Post-conflict reconstruction of institutions and of governance. Human rights learning would mean evaluating past experience and will help to develop a sensitivity to human rights in order to build a community in which they can live in peace. Societies, more than ever need human rights learning if they are to move towards the future of living together.

- Sustainable development. Human beings must be central to its concerns. Through human rights learning communities can better equip themselves to evolve strategies for development which are sensitive to human rights. It is the deficit in human rights learning that creates a gap between what is professed and what is practiced.

Thus human rights learning through innovative programmes would be of critical relevance to some of the most important issues on the current agenda of the international community. Valuable inputs could be made to the discussions at the Summit next September presenting innovative proposals including how human rights learning could be an integral part of strategies to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals and also of their relevance to the important issues on the global agenda.

Learning/Empowerment Guidelines for Capacity-Building

We propose the following as the preliminary formulation of learning/empowerment guidelines for building the capacities of the claim holders to participate in all processes to implement the MDGs.

1. Assuring that claimants are provided with *fundamental components of human rights learning*, i.e.:

1.1. *Knowledge* of what universal human rights comprise and the mechanism and means for their promotion and protection; knowledge of the specific human rights related to each of the MDGs; knowledge of the interrelationships among all rights and among the eight goals and knowledge of the relationships between the holistic human rights framework and the general normative purposes of the MDGs. Such knowledge should be the content of a worldwide popular human rights education campaign based on the MDGs.

1.2. *Critical Awareness* of how the claimant's own lives and communities are affected by poverty; critical thinking skills to analyze the human rights deprivations they suffer and the human rights standards upon which to claim these respective rights from their governments or any agent or organization responsible for the denial.

1.3. *Political Skills* to assess the conditions in need of change and for organizing actions to claim rights and bring about changes toward the reduction and elimination of poverty.

2. Applying the critical pedagogy of popular education: *Core Questions* for an *Action Inquiry* to assess the particular conditions and causes of poverty that impede all or some of the targets of the MDGs in the claimants' communities and into the formulation of appropriate and effect indicators relevant to the particular claimants conditions; into the human rights standards their governments have ratified that relate to these particular conditions and causes and into effective national and local policies to achieve MDG targets and goals through the realization of human rights. Possible core questions that might be more elaborated and specified according to particular learning populations and communities are:

2.1. *On conditions of deprivation:* What is the condition of well-being of yourself, your family and your community? What needs do you experience or perceive to provide adequate nutrition, housing, health care (including infant, child and maternal health and HIV), education, equality between men and women and ethnic or religious groups, healthful environment? What can you find out about the causes for failure to meet any or all of these needs? What might be done to assure that they are met? Who can or should undertake action toward making the changes to meet the needs? What can you or your group contribute?

2.2. *On relevant human rights standards:* What international human rights standards that recognize these needs as rights have been ratified by your government? Which of these standards relate to each of the eight Millennium Development Goals? How can citizens secure accountability from the government for the fulfillment of the obligations undertaken in ratifying these standards? What intergovernmental agencies or non-governmental organizations might you enlist in a campaign to call the government to accountability so that the MDGs and the needs of your community might be met?

2.3. *On action for change:* What actions can citizens and civil society takes to assist governments in fulfilling human rights as a means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals? What actions can they take individually? What kind of preparation and/or training might be needed to prepare citizens to undertake these actions? Would your group or community undertake such training and initiate such action?

It is proposed that tools and materials for human rights learning to empower claim holders to act toward the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals be developed and empowerment training program be undertaken where ever possible throughout the world.

We call on ECOSOC towards its June meeting and the Millennium +5 meetings at the General Assembly in September to include the Global Appeal as informing a high priority and a strategy to achieve the MDGs.

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Statement submitted by Foundation for the Child and the Family, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36540 (E) 150605

Statement

The "Foundation for the Child and the Family" (Greece), under its special consultative status with ECOSOC, responding to the invitation and encouragement of the NGO Section/DESA concerning the presentation of NGO views to the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, June 2005), undertook the initiative of the composition of a Declaration and a Report regarding the UN Millennium Development Goals in relation to the child and the family.

The Declaration and the Report will be based on the views and recommendations of several Greek NGOs and institutes, working in various fields of action relevant to children and families, that were invited by the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" to participate in this project and to co-operate in a joint effort expressing the views of the Greek civil society.

The issues that will be raised at the Declaration and the Report will deal with the UN Millennium Goals in relation to the children and families such as poverty, education, health, protection and welfare of children and families, of children with special needs, of children suffering from cancer, homeless children, etc.

The Declaration will be signed by all the NGO members of this project in a Meeting on June 6th 2005 in Athens and it will be submitted to the ECOSOC.

On June 7th 2005, the "Foundation for the Child and the Family" is organizing an event entitled "The UN Millennium Development Goals and the Civil Society" for the presentation of the Declaration and the Report as well as a presentation of the work of the ECOSOC and the United Nations concerning the Millennium Development Goals. The event has been put under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will be attended by Greek Ministers, representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Parliamentarians, representatives of the Academic world and Institutions, journalists, representatives of the private sector, etc.

The initiative of the Foundation for the composition of the Declaration and the Report as well as its public presentation event aim at: a) the contribution of the Foundation to the important work of the ECOSOC towards the "High Level Segment" and the "Millennium +5 Summit", b) the development of a closer co-operation among several Greek NGO's, institutes and other organizations on a joint effort expressing both the views of the Greek Civil Society and their recommendations through their expertise in various fields concerning children and families, c) the sensitization of the decision makers and the Greek public opinion on the efforts for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, d) the further information about the priorities and the work of the ECOSOC and the UN towards the sustainable development worldwide.

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Statement submitted by Mumbai Educational Trust, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36546 (E) 160605

Statement

I Introduction:

Established in 1989 with a mission to redefine the system of education, the MET League of Colleges is a professionally managed, multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted Public Trust engaged in providing quality learning experience and skill development opportunities to professionals in Mumbai.

Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) was granted 'NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations' at its session in July 2003 at New York. Ever since MET has undertaken number of activities to promote the developmental goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. These activities are undertaken by MET in support of the MDGs and the work of the United Nations, with a special focus on the use of ICTs through a partnership project on implementation of the Paperless Committee project for the committee on NGOs now adopted as a normal mode of operation.

Some of the highlights of the partnership are summarized below:-

Month/ Year	Activities
March 2003	Workshop on Building Partnerships towards Achieving Development Goals in India
April/ May/ June 2003	– 9 students of MET visited to UN ECOSOC for three months for the Paperless Committee Project – 1st Mission
December 2003 - January 2004	– 2 students of MET visited to UN ECOSOC for two months for the Paperless Committee Project – 2nd Mission
April/ May/ June 2004	– 2 students of MET visited to UN ECOSOC for three months for the Paperless Committee Project – 3rd Mission
November/ December 2003/ January 2004	– 4 students of MET visited to UN ECOSOC for three months for the Paperless Committee Project – 4th Mission
April / May / June 2005	– 4 students of MET visited ECOSOC for three months for the Paperless Committee Project – 5th Mission

II Project-TRUTH and Lessons Learnt:

Highlights of Project-TRUTH (Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care)

a) Project Purpose – Promoting integrated rural development program to effectively contribute in MDGs implementation in least developed tribal areas of India (Waliv-Maharashtra) in partnership with United Nations, Civil Society Organizations and Donors.

b) Duration – Three years

c) Executing Agency – Mumbai Educational Trust (MET)

d) Cooperating Agency – United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: UNDESA

e) Brief Summary – As follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration and recommendations of the 2003 ECOSOC High Level Segment Session in Geneva, this project aims at promoting integrated rural development program to effectively contribute in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in least developed rural areas of Thane District, Maharashtra – India in partnership between the United Nations, UNDP, Civil Society Organizations and Donors. It will strengthen Asian/India civil society organizations and build their capacity to enhance their role and performance in achieving poverty alleviation and sustainable development within a participatory governance. Through on-the-job training workshops, exchange of information, innovative experiences, good practices and appropriate holistic development strategies, the project will foster regional cooperation, development and integration for the benefit of the people. As pilot, result-oriented, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnership project between the United National, UNDP, NGOs, Local Authorities and Donors from India, this project could serve as example that could also be implemented in other interested regions.

MET has been working in the areas of academic excellence as well as seeking public participation in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in rural areas. Besides providing academic inputs to the students it is working with the indigenous people in the rural areas of India. We have been sharing our inputs with number of NGOs working in the area so that synergy is developed through partnership and networking.

While reviewing the participation of MET in direct interface with the indigenous people, we have gained valuable insights into the operational aspects of rural development programs especially the MDGs. Some of these insights may have not merely regional or national connotation, but they may be viewed as globally relevant keeping in view the global dimension of the MDGs. We would like to share some of these with the High Level Segment.

The first learning concerns the program formulation, conceptualization and implementation. After preparing a program outline in consultation with experts from NGO Section, ECOSOC, UN when we actually took it to the indigenous people, we found that prima-facie there was over all acceptance of the project content. However, as individual areas were being discussed, the beneficiaries appeared to have developed a notion that the program was an extension of parallel government funded initiatives, which involved mere dolling out of funds. There was no commitment to the outcomes as well as corresponding benefits to the recipients. The popular participation in the government initiatives was insignificant which eventually affected the outcome. But we clarified that the MDG initiatives were totally public participation driven and would be implemented only after popular commitment was total.

As a result of this learning, we have focused on setting up of Self Directed Work Teams (SDWT), which consist of indigenous people beneficiaries from each settlement who form the core team of the program implementers. These teams are then trained about the relevant aspects of the MDG program and networking. They in turn carry the message to the rest of the indigenous people beneficiaries to seek their total commitment and participation. Where necessary the program format is suitably altered and priorities are re-worked to ensure popular participation and total commitment.

These SDWT members are then involved in setting up of pilot projects, which form the core of the Self Employment Projects proposed to be implemented for the poverty eradication under the MDGs. This has

proved to be a success as we have been able to establish successful pilots in the program area with participation of indigenous people in goat/ sheep breeding, pisciculture, diary farming, water harvesting, etc. The SDWT members acted as a nucleus around which other indigenous people could be brought together to ensure popular participation.

The second most important learning which we would like to share is the lateral participation of small business enterprises in the poverty alleviation programs to motivate popular indigenous people participation. While organizing indigenous people to participate in market driven handicraft production, we found that the participation improved substantially when local traders who buy large number of bamboo products including woven bamboo boxes directly talked to the indigenous people for supplies. This motivated the indigenous people to show interest in the bamboo products training center which is being set up with the help of the local state agency. The local interest was triggered only when the traders asked for the baskets since it convinced the indigenous people that there was existing market for their product. Thus participation of local small business community in poverty alleviation programs has great impact in making the project a success.

The third most important learning of the indigenous people participation program is that initially women participants may not be forthcoming to participate in poverty alleviation efforts. But once the initial doubts are cleared, then it is the women who drive these programs to success. They totally overtake the male participants as well as outnumber and outperform them through their dedication, hard work and total commitment. The pilot initiatives launched by SDWT initially had larger male participation but eventually they are being run and made a success by the female participants all the way.

III Conclusion:

As may be seen, MET has been active in providing manpower and intellectual support directly as well as indirectly to further the cause of UN ECOSOC and help in implementation of the Millennium Development program. In this task MET has been seeking collaborative support, participation and partnerships from other NGOs working in the project area as well as number of voluntary and civic action groups in the region. This partnership is further widened with the support of international bodies like UN DESA which help to provide global connectivity. The Project-TRUTH conceived and developed by MET, is now being sharpened and actual work plan is being evolved so as to ensure mass participation of the beneficiaries of the Waliv Tribal area. Thus though the plan is centrally conceived, it is being fine-tuned to meet local aspiration challenges through lateral and multi-dimensional partnerships with the full participation from beneficiaries.

Through the learnings, we are focusing on forming up of the SDWTs and involving the women folk in making these a success. Thus the ultimate goal of the project is to seek poverty alleviation (MDG1) through promotion of gender equality and women empowerment (MDG3). The indigenous people are responding to the program but obviously the pace is slow as rushing through will not help popular participation. Hence we shall be implementing the MDGs to seek poverty alleviation with full participation of the weakest sections of the society and indigenous people, involving multi-stakeholder partnership government, civil society, corporation, foundation, etc and local authorities.

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Statement submitted by Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36564 (E) 160605

Statement

My organization is submitting this statement on behalf of a coalition of NGOs working in the field of Social Development and who are members of the C.O.N.G.O. Committee for Social Development, of which I serve as the current Chair. The NGO Committee for Social Development represents approximately forty-five humanitarian organizations many of whose members work with people and communities in extreme poverty in virtually every country, South and North. The Committee is grateful to have this opportunity to offer these brief comments which we trust will be helpful to sovereign states in their decision-making relative to ending extreme poverty within their countries. The Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Declaration are critical because they represent the clearest indication to date of a global consensus on the need to end extreme poverty. At this juncture, it is vital to re-energize that consensus and to that end the NGO community will continue to work energetically with governments and other entities, on country and regional levels, in the implementation and monitoring of the MDG's. The NGO community must continue to play a vital role in the current review process and in the ongoing planning for the full implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

The NGO Committee for Social Development sees the positive experience of the recent 43rd Commission on Social Development as an example of governments and NGOs working together towards a greater goal and, therefore, achieving more than either entity could working separately. From the very beginning of the process, the leadership of the Commission met with the NGO Community and provided relevant information. Government members actively sought the expertise and experience of NGOs and encouraged the NGO community to exercise its consultative role fully. Likewise, NGOs honored the decision–making role that rightly belongs to member governments.

As many governments already know, virtually all established grass-roots NGO's have a long history of accompanying communities of people living in extreme poverty in the very elemental tasks of surviving as families, making whatever progress is possible for their own sake and for the sake of their children.

NGO's have the experience of mentoring large and small development projects in urban and rural communities; through experience they have come to know what works and what doesn't; and they know that irreplaceable fellow human beings live and die while we wait for more comprehensive poverty eradication strategies to be acted on.

The Declaration of the NGO Forum, 8 February 2005, aimed at keeping the spirit of Copenhagen alive. The NGO community committed itself to do so by:

- Working for open partnerships between civil society and governments
- Working to place people and human rights at the centre of development
- Promoting equitable investment in social and economic development, and,
- Ensuring inclusion and participation of all those affected by government policy.

These remain our commitments; on the basis of these commitments we remain open to a variety of partnerships.

We stated to members of the Commission in February that for us NGOs working in the field of social development, the MDGs and the year 2015 had marked but a midpoint. We were asking that in 2005, governments commit themselves to a Global Social Contract grounding security for all in a commitment to social development for all, pointing beyond the Millennium Development Goals to the full realization of the promises that Copenhagen had given to the impoverished peoples of the world.

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Statement submitted by the Virtue Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-37575 (E) 170605

Statement

On September 10, 2004, Virtue Foundation and the United Nations NGO Section of DESA hosted the 3rd annual multidisciplinary symposium commemorating the anniversary of 9/11 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber in New York. While the first two commemorative symposia examined the resilience and triumph of the human spirit in the context of the overwhelmingly unified response to the attacks of September 11, *"Healing the World: The Ethical Dimension of Globalization and Interdependence in an Age of Terror"* focused on the rights and responsibilities that accompany the close ties forged by globalization. A truly collaborative undertaking, the symposium brought together representatives from the Permanent Missions of Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, and Uruguay to the United Nations, as well as the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York, the International Rescue Committee, Refugees International, FilmAid International, Standard & Poor's, and the Nour Foundation.

Conceived in the wake of 9/11, Virtue Foundation is a public charity and NGO committed to raising awareness of prevalent global issues while initiating public discourse on rights and responsibilities within the global community from an ethical, moral, and humanitarian perspective. The Foundation is also involved in the sponsorship and deployment of medical missions to underdeveloped regions of the world, as well as the education and training of physicians and nurses committed to returning to such regions upon the completion of their training. Through its extensive educational and humanitarian efforts, the Foundation seeks to engender inner change and transformation at an individual, grassroots level and to dispel the ignorance and fear that fuel the cultural and socioeconomic divide, building instead a true spirit of cooperation and interdependence among citizens of all nations.

As an NGO with special consultative status to the United Nations ECOSOC Council, Virtue Foundation is dedicated to working toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the outcomes of the many major United Nations conferences and summits. *"Healing the World: The Ethical Dimension of Globalization and Interdependence in an Age of Terror"* thus focused discussion around the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the necessity of the greater role of the United Nations in our increasingly globalized world.

The daylong symposium featured two panel discussions and several keynote speakers, including Under-Secretaries-General José Antonio Ocampo and Shashi Tharoor, as well as a keynote address by U.N. Chief of Staff Mark Malloch Brown. Focusing on different albeit equally critical issues related to global security and stability, the morning panel moderated by CNN's Paula Zahn examined the difficult balance between ensuring national security and protecting civil liberties, while the afternoon panel led by Refugees International President Ken Bacon focused on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals in general and the far-reaching ramifications of alleviating extreme poverty in particular.

After a lively exchange of compelling and diverse viewpoints, the following conclusions emerged from the distinguished panellists and speakers:

- In seeking the proper balance between national security and civil liberties, it is essential to acknowledge and recognize the existence of core universal values that underlie all cultures, all countries, and all systems of governance. The recognition of these values must

constitute as much a point of debate and departure in such discussions as any hostile force or individuals seeking to do us harm, or any challenges that we collectively confront as a people or a nation.

- Defeating the scourge of terrorism in the 21st century mandates a collective and interdependent effort, with the United Nations best suited to be at the forefront of the promulgation and promotion of democracy, good governance, and human rights. At the same time, the United Nations must lead the global effort to address the economic, social, cultural, and political inequities that drive terrorism.

- To fulfil its critical role of building a peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive world for all citizens, the United Nations must undergo significant reforms to better meet the greater challenges of the post Cold War era and the world post September 11. These reforms should include a restructuring of the Security Council, which no longer reflects modern realities of global power, and the Human Rights Commission.

- To effectively respond to the threat of global terrorism and the unprecedented attacks on innocent civilians and non-combatants, the United Nations should adopt a definition of terrorism as any act intended to kill or harm civilians or non-combatants with the aim of intimidating governments or international organizations. In so doing, the United Nations will send a clear message to the world community that terrorist attacks are an unacceptable and ineffective way of advancing any cause.

- As terrorism is a global phenomenon that victimizes all nations on some level, the United Nations should appoint an independent commission to establish a global protocol for responding to terrorist attacks and related security issues. Such a protocol would eliminate localized responses by individual nation states and replace it with a unified and consistent approach to acts of terrorism.

- As many of the worst atrocities are rationalized, if not wholly justified, on the basis that they are carried out in furtherance of God's will, the United Nations should initiate an effort to establish a unique forum for specifically addressing and mediating religious grievances and conflicts. Such a forum would legitimize genuine religious disputes while exposing and marginalizing religious fundamentalists who revert to terror to advance their cause.

- Significant progress has been made toward fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, which are essential to ensuring global peace and stability due to the direct link between poverty, lack of development, and security. Continued success toward achieving these goals will require the collaborative effort of governmental institutions, the private sector, and non-profit civil society organizations working closely together.

As Under-Secretary-General José Antonio Ocampo eloquently stated at the outset of the symposium: "We must take every opportunity to engage in exchanges such as this, to highlight and reinforce the principles that uplift and advance the human spirit and form the foundations for constructing a global ethics that will ensure the future of a globalized world." In line with the symposium's key findings, the United Nations has now released two instrumental documents:

"In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All" and *"A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the High-Level Panel on Threat, Challenges and Change,"* which seek to address many of the collective recommendations set forth at Virtue Foundation's Annual Symposium *"Healing the World: The Ethical Dimension of Globalization and Interdependence in an Age of Terror."*

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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by the Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-37558 (E) 210605

Statement

Background

A massive earthquake of magnitude 9.0 occurred off the West Coast of Northern Sumatra on 26 December 2004 at 0058 hours GMT. Another earthquake of magnitude 7.3 occurred 81 kms West of Pulo Kunji (Great Nicobar Islands) at 0421 GMT. These two earthquakes triggered Tsunami. A series of aftershock were reported in this region. Seven countries have reportedly been affected: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Somalia.

Present Situation

IBS sent a team to Indonesia, including the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra. The tidal waves caused serious damage to public facilities, transportation facilities (roads and bridges) telecommunications, electricity, and power in both provinces, with the worst being the capital city of Aceh, Banda Aceh. Currently, the airport in Banda Aceh is open for commercial and humanitarian flights. The first information from the Department of Social Affairs on 27 December 2004 said that 4,712 people were killed, 303 people were missing and some 50,000 people displaced due to the earthquake/tsunami. According to recent information the number has increased dramatically to 170,000 people killed 70,000 people reported missing and 400,000 people displaced.

Over a month after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Indonesian Aceh province its residents are still very much traumatized. Several refugees encountered at the Masjid Sabang refugee camp in the Jaya subdistrict of Aceh Jaya, acknowledged they still feel fearful when recalling how they had escaped death.

In order to make progress on this matter the volunteers feel they need more time than has been allotted to them by the government, which has limited their stay in Aceh only until March. They are concerned that many survivors will not receive the full care they require.

So far the work on the land route from Banda Aceh towards Meulaboh has gone as far as Lepung, Aceh Besar, only about 20% of its length, due to difficulties in the field. The road from Meulaboh to Banda Aceh has only been repaired to Tenom, Aceh Jaya.

The government opened the schools which are still usable outside Banda Aceh, including the tent schools that will reside in refugees sites.

The government is also preparing 24 relocation spots to accommodate refugees living in tents, moving them to simple buildings to live in. These buildings are being prepared by the Departement of Civics. Meanwhile, the number of refugees has reached 356,927, spreading to 59 locations.

Activities of IBS in the Field

IBS-team arrived in Banda Aceh, (North Sumatra-Indonesia) on 11 January 2005 and after assessing the situation, has started to distribute the urgent needs of IDPs such as food, medicine, drinking water, clothes and sanitary materials.

During the Muslim Celebration of Hari Raya Korban, IBS assembled some 73 cows, the meat of which was distributed to displaced people living in tents.

IBS continues supplying the mentioned materials and food when needed or requested by the people in the region.

Another very important problem area IBS is concerned with is child protection. Therefore IBS team has performed some field research regarding children that have been affected from tsunami and decided to concentrate on "Pesantrens" which are traditional boarding schools in the region.

These pesantrens have opened their doors to orphans and other affected children so that they can find shelter and continue their education at the same time. After visiting several of them, IBS has taken full responsibility for two pesantrens in Banda Aceh.

In these two pesantrens there are 950 students of which 140 are orphans or affected children.

After renovating the old buildings, IBS is now constructing a dormitory, library and kitchen for one of these two pesantrens (Darul Mutaallimin) and 10 houses for the teachers of the other one (Ulee Titi).

IBS has preferred to concentrate on pesantrens because the environment in the pesantrens is more friendly and natural than the one in orphanages.

Housing Project of Lam No

IBS has also undertaken a housing project in Lam No, a small town totally destroyed by tsunami in the south of Banda Aceh.

In coordination with other Turkish NGOs, IBS has decided to launch a housing project for 1,000 families. This project has not started yet, IBS is negotiating with a contractor who will handle the whole work in three stages.

Recommendations/Action Alert

* Employment is the most urgent need of IDPs at the moment. They need to generate their own incomes to prevent them from being overly dependent on other people. Innovative cash-for-work models are needed to open up job opportunities for IDPs, especially those who cannot return to the jobs they did previously. For IDPs who are able to return to their jobs, there is still a need for assistance in the form of equipment and start-up capital for their businesses.

* Although fewer than in the past, there are IDPs who are refusing to relocate. The reason they give is different from before; they say the barracks are too crowded, two families have to live in one barrack. In housing problems like this, it is essential to prioritize the wishes of the people. Housing should be constructed to conform to the cultural tradition of the Acehnese, health and safety requirements.

* Schooling is starting to resume, although in some locations there are still shortages of teaching staff, classrooms and uniforms. IDPs who need this assistance for educational activities are those served by Mesjid Lueng Bata humanitarian aid post; IDPs in Lhoong covered by Ipemal humanitarian aid post; IDPs in Krueng Manee served by Induk Samalanga humanitarian aid post; and IDPs in Kota Sigli subdistrict of Pidie served by the Paska humanitarian aid post.

* Several humanitarian aid posts are in urgent need of operating funds. This shortage of funding has caused them to reduce the intensity of their monitoring of IDPs on the ground. Humanitarian aid posts in need of this assistance are Al-Muslim, FKSM and Fugar.

* Although remaining IDPs have begun to work and earn wages, assistance in logistics is still needed. The IDPs are in need of: staples (rice, sugar, cooking oil, vegetables, etc), nutrient-rich foods, clothing suitable for young children (under 5), and women's things for the next 3 months. There is also a need for clean water, sanitation facilities and information.

* Some IDPs are still suffering from itching, fever and upper respiratory tract infections, so medical services are still essential.

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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Final report of the fifty-seventh annual DPI/NGO Conference

Millennium Development Goals: civil society takes action

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-37716 (E) 160605

Final Report of the fifty-seventh annual DPI/NGO Conference
Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action

Presented to the Committee on NGOs, 17 May 2005
by Sister Joan Kirby, Conference Chair,
Representative of the Temple of Understanding

Overview

The fifty-seventh annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled "Millennium Development Goals: civil society takes action", took place at United Nations Headquarters from 8-10 September 2004. It brought together over 1,800 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work with the United Nations through the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As every year before the opening of the General Assembly, NGO representatives come from around the world to explore ways to support the United Nations through information sharing in critical areas of international concern. The Conference provided the opportunity to consult among themselves and share views with UN and Government officials, as well as private sector, academic and media representatives and other civil society partners.

The Conference was characterized by an urgent and activist concern that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by the General Assembly in 2000, are not receiving sufficient support from Member States and are not well known or understood outside of the United Nations system. Organizers of the Conference - the Executive Committee of the NGOs associated with the DPI and the NGO Section of DPI - focused the plenary sessions, the Midday NGO Interactive Workshops and innovative networking sessions on ways that NGOs can mobilize public support for the MDGs and work in partnership with Governments and the United Nations to ensure their realization by 2015. The theme of partnership came to dominate the Conference. Participants also enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed their sustained involvement in support of the MDGs over the long term.

The Conference took place at a crucial point in the MDG process, which has its roots in the world conferences on development of the 1990s. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, in his special address to the Conference, argued that political will and public support must be mobilized during the next 12 months if the campaign is to be sustained over the next decade. Although the United Nations system has embraced the MDGs and is reorienting its work to make them a priority, government support for them must be strengthened, and civil society's involvement in and awareness of them must be greatly enhanced if they are to meet the time-bound and quantified targets.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Julian R. Hunte, opened the Conference and emphasized the central role that partnerships between civil society, the United Nations, Governments, and the private sector are playing in the process.

The Conference addressed five central themes: the current status of the MDG campaign globally; the obstacles to their realization; the requirements of North/South partnerships; identification of strategies that can enable NGOs to have an impact at the local and national levels, and concrete recommendations of Conference participants regarding civil society support for the MDGs.

Representatives of NGOs from the North and the South provided their experiences and concerns, frequently pointing out the devastating impact that unfair international trade policies have on the ability of many countries to eradicate poverty and provide economic and social security for their people. Media representatives and academics underscored the importance of focused and innovative use of information sharing technologies to involve civil society organizations and pressure both government and the private sector to be more responsive to the interests of all citizens.

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the elected body of the 1,500 NGOs associated with DPI, appointed Ms. Joan Kirby, Representative of the Temple of Understanding, as Chair of the Conference. Ms. Kirby and Paul Hoeffel, Chief of the NGO Section of DPI, served as co-chairs of the Conference Planning Committee.

The Conference was attended by 1,800 NGO representatives from 555 organizations from 66 countries. Of these, 850 participants stated that it was the first time they attended the Conference. Nearly 3,000 persons preregistered for the Conference. Many were unable to attend because of visa restrictions by the host country and financial constraints.

Over 200 additional persons, representing the range of stakeholders in the MDG process and many United Nations staff also participated in the proceedings. The organizers worked particularly closely with the MDG Campaign, headed by Ms. Eveline Herfkens, who was the keynote speaker at the opening session.

Plenary Sessions and Midday NGO Interactive Workshops

The Conference plenary sessions and Midday NGO Interactive Workshops featured presentations by high-level United Nations representatives from the UN Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force, United Nations Volunteers, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Information Service, Bangkok, the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), the NGO Section and the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Millennium Campaign, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

The organizers placed special emphasis on bringing speakers who possessed first-hand knowledge of the MDG-related programmes and policies in the field. There were 31 speakers for the plenary sessions and 135 speakers for the 31 Midday NGO Interactive Workshops. For the plenary sessions, 55 per cent of the speakers were women; 40 per cent of the speakers came from developing regions.

The Midday NGO Interactive Workshops remained a popular part of the Conference in part because they offered opportunities for interventions of Conference participants. There were 140 Workshop proposals from NGOs around the world. The Midday NGO Interactive Workshop Committee gave priority to those from developing countries and those reflecting experience from the field. This year, the emphasis was placed on partnering among NGOs and limiting the number of presenters to provide more time for interaction among participants. Participants were asked to identify the dominant issue that emerged in order to prepare for presentations during the "Public Hearing" session of the Conference.

The organizers of the Conference took into account the reforms that are under way to enhance the participation of civil society partners in the work of the Organization. In keeping with the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, which called for more multi-stakeholder deliberations on issues of special concern such as the MDGs, the Conference held an unprecedented plenary "Public Hearing" on the final day of the meeting. Twelve NGO representatives expressed the key concerns and recommendations that had arisen from the Midday NGO Interactive Workshops, the networking sessions and preceding plenary sessions to an eminent panel consisting of Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator, UNDP; Kavita Ramdas, President, Global Fund for Women, and Jacques Attali, founding president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Outreach efforts

Tying the Conference more closely to the intergovernmental process, Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked for a report of the Conference proceedings. Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination and Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section of DESA, offered to arrange that the findings of the Conference be presented to the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2005. The theme of the High Level Segment is "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities". The Conference organizers, which included a 50-member Planning Committee, made a priority of ensuring that the Conference was able to reach out to participants beyond UN Headquarters through the use of videoconferencing and, for the second year, the development of an interactive Conference web site (www.undpingoconference.org).

During the Conference, the interactive web site enabled 1,562 visits (an increase of 200 per cent from 2003) by NGO representatives and the general public to access audio and video webcasts live through the Internet on their personal computers. All seven plenary sessions were broadcast live on UNTV and webcast and archived on the Internet site.

Building on the previous year's positive experience and continuing requests from Conference participants to create more opportunities for networking and input into discussions of the Conference themes, a Networking Committee organized networking sessions each morning. The sessions were organized by facilitators (identified prior to the Conference and representative of all regions of the world) to enable personal interaction and relevant information exchange for NGO participants, as well as to identify themes and presenters for the "Public Hearing" session on the final afternoon of the Conference. The latter was a process that was coordinated with the Midday NGO Interactive Workshop Committee. The networking sessions, which involved over 200 persons, were considered to be very helpful in facilitating the one-on-one deliberations before and during the Conference. They are now an integral part of the Conference process with potential for significant follow-up activities.

The Planning Committee greatly enhanced its outreach to youth throughout the Conference process. There was unprecedented input by younger members of participating NGOs in the development of the Conference design elements, the interactive web site and its maintenance, the selection of speakers and the Conference précis. Thirteen interns from nine countries worked throughout the nine months of preparations on every aspect of the planning and servicing of the Conference itself. In addition, there were youth speakers on the plenary panels and in the Midday NGO Interactive Workshops, three of which were oriented to youth issues.

Parallel meetings and media

The UN Information Centres (UNICs) of the Department of Public Information reached out to national and local NGOs, organizing parallel meetings, seminars and conferences inspired by the DPI/NGO Conference. Such meetings took place at UNIC Tehran, UNIC Dakar, UNIC Asuncion, UNIC Moscow and at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago. The opening session was videoconferenced to UNIC Asuncion, ECLAC in Santiago and Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States of America. The Tehran parallel Conference brought together over 80 national and local NGOs to discuss the best practices surrounding implementation of the MDGs.

The organizers focused on outreach to the media in a dual effort to ensure coverage of the Conference and to identify specific ways that the media might better support the MDGs. Both Nicholas Kristof of the *New York Times* and ZainVerjee of *CNN International* recommended ways to engage the media. Mr. Kristof argued that the MDGs as a package would not capture the attention of editors; he said that the coverage of the individual goals would be more realistic.

There was unprecedented media coverage of the Conference within the United Nations, among NGOs and in the mainstream media. Over 131 news stories were published before, during and after the Conference, representing over 170 per cent increase over 2003. Mr. Attali's keynote address appeared in full in *Le Monde* on 11 September. There was a briefing/reception hosted by the UN Correspondents Association and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, as well as two UN press conferences during the event. In addition, there were seven radio productions by UN Radio in Chinese, English and Russian.

The Conference reception, hosted by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, was attended by 850 persons. Over 300 participants attended the closing reception hosted by the PeaceBoat, a Japanese NGO. The event took place on board its ship docked in the New York harbour. The PeaceBoat, a peace education facility, coordinated its itinerary to attend the Conference. Similarly, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) timed the release of its annual report on NGO involvement in the MDG campaigns worldwide "We the Peoples..." to coincide with the Conference. Mrs. Nane Annan hosted a luncheon at the Secretary-General's residence for the plenary speakers of the Conference. The ArtCenter of Pasadena hosted a dinner for UN system partners.

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Declaration submitted by Foundation for the Child and the Family, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-38317 (E) 210605

Declaration regarding the mid-term review of the eight Millennium Development Goals

We, representatives of 22 NGOs, institutes and bodies from Greece **(Actionaid, ASPE, ARSIS, Medecins du monde, ELEPAP, Greek Council for Refugees, ELPIDA, Greek Family Union, Celebral Palsy Greece, Foundation for the Child and the Family, Institute of Social Policy, Institute for Child Heath, MAKE-A-WISH, The Center for Life, Family and Child Care Center, Human Rights Defence Center, Volunteering NGOs Federation, SOS Children Villages, Fair Play, The Smile of the Child, UNICEF)** taking an active part in the Greek civil society through actions that address child and family issues, as well as human rights, health, education and environment issues, have gathered in Athens invited by the **"Foundation for the Child and Family"**, to affirm:

- **our commitment** to the UN Millennium Declaration principles, emphasising on peace, security and stability, in the absence of which no development effort can be complete;

- **our determination** to join forces in an integrated approach to the MDGs and their more speedy implementation.

Sharing the vision of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan **on larger freedom** for the individual as elaborated on in his latest Report (March 2005);

Drawing from the sense of **collective responsibility** as underlined in the UN Millennium Declaration;

Acknowledging that MDGs have indeed managed to provide a human face for growth through respect for human rights; they are still, nevertheless, a long way from actually seeing problems from the point of view of the poor, whom they address, as well as from both representing and responding on their own to a concise development agenda;

Identifying a political will deficit, as despite commitments made by national governments, actual progress made in the direction of the MDGs is not deemed satisfactory;

Considering that civil society has a critical role to play in today's world;

State our views and proposals based on our activity and experience accumulated over the years on a global level.

Goal 1

As

- the issue of poverty still remains, for both developed and developing countries, more than a financial issue, but rather a human rights violation, which intensifies due to population shifts that

sustain waves of immigration and refugees, with unescorted refugee minors being the most vulnerable group

CALL FOR

- Pressure on developed countries to keep development assistance (ODA) at 0.7% of their GNP
- The establishment of an international organ to monitor and audit assistance allocation and delivery to developing countries and draw up Reports due for publication in the Press of respective countries
- Enhancing the role of NGOs to act as catalysts to combat poverty
- Specific EU actions to fight poverty, enhance coherence between trade and political cooperation and develop the common agricultural policy
- More state aid
- Attention to child poverty and implementation of the international agreement for "A World Fit for Children", adopted during the UN Special Session on Children (May 2002)
- Children to be acknowledged by all UN members as protected individuals and for crimes against children- such as rape, sexual abuse, trafficking, child labour- to be considered as crimes against humanity
- Care for children deprived of their birth family
- Special care for refugees: structures and independent social services, state agreements to be signed, unescorted minors and underage refugee issues to be included in the 2006 UN General Assembly agenda and financial support for refugee host countries with proper means for appropriate fund allocation
- More intense efforts to remove and ban landmines

Goal 2

As

- Education is a fundamental growth tool and one of the EU Lisbon strategy main prerequisites. It limits poverty and social exclusion and leads to the prevention and management of diseases afflicting mankind

- There is a problem in terms of bringing the illiteracy rate considerably down, especially for girls

- The scourge of drugs concerns school-age children

CALL FOR:

- UNESCO 'Education for all' and World Bank initiatives, in conjunction with other measures, to aim to: compulsory and free education for boys and girls, contain early school drop-outs, promote school reintegration, train personnel involved in education, improve material and technical infrastructure, promote the use of new technologies in all grades of education

- The Culture of Peace to be integrated in all education levels

- Enhanced symptomatic-type policies and a gradual transition to more holistic policies, in line with the spirit of the Lisbon Summit

- Structures for special training and support of children with family, social, mobility and learning difficulties – children- victims of domestic violence, in particular - and to train teachers and parents with a view to facilitating child acceptance in their respective social and school environment.

- Drug prevention programmes at schools, legislative harmonisation and penalties for states that tolerate drug production and trafficking

- Staffing schools with experts in the field of mental health protection for children

Goal 3

As

- Gender equality is a fundamental right as well as a precondition for balanced economic and social growth

- Women are the greatest victims of poverty

- Women are subject to discrimination in every aspect of their public and private lives as well as prejudice due to cultural stereotypes and customs

CALL FOR:

- The ratification and implementation of international conventions on human rights' protection and the elimination of all forms of inequality and discrimination

- The inclusion of the gender dimension in all national policies, bilateral and multilateral agreements on development and humanitarian assistance as well as in the educational process

- Promotion of women's participation in decision-making centres, especially UN committees or agencies for peace, as well as in the UN Council of Development Advisors, which is due.

- Support for women's initiatives for peace, i.e. " The Suzanne Mubarak's Women's International Peace Movement"

- Special attention to eliminating phenomena of violence against women

- Joblessness for women to be dealt with, in particular for those in vulnerable social groups, and measures to help strike a balance between professional and family life.

Goal 4

As

- The right to live is fundamental

- Education and support for mothers help reduce child mortality

- Giving birth in adolescence enhances the risk of child mortality

- In plans of action to combat HIV/ AIDS, poverty, trade and trafficking and ensure food safety, reference to children is minimal

- Lack of access to safe water is associated with high child mortality rates

CALL FOR:

- More national policies and NGO activity to protect poor children and provide them with healthy living conditions

- Education for women

- Global mobilisation to ensure supply of safe water and conditions of health and hygiene for schools and households

- Intense family planning along with training for health professionals, parents and teachers on this issue.

Goal 5

As

- Managing child and mother mortality is an objectively verifiable indicator for development and humanitarian assistance programs
- Poor communities in developing countries are greatly affected since they are deprived of access to health services
- Lack of sex education and family planning leads to an increase of unwanted pregnancies and an increase in subsequent risks

CALL FOR:

- Better health and hygiene conditions
- Access to health services, information and family planning centers for mothers
- More information dissemination programmes on sex education, hygiene and health protection for women, especially girls.

Goal 6

As

- A dramatically high number of people die of HIV/AIDS every year and 60% of children got the disease from their mother, while poverty and ignorance are the main causes for the spread of AIDS and other types of disease
- Ignorance and prejudice about child disease, such as cancer and HIV/AIDS, still make them a social stigma and lead to marginalisation and social exclusion

CALL FOR:

- Prioritising health issues, more upgraded funding for services, promoting educational programmes
- Increased contribution on the part of the EU and the rest of the developed countries to the Global Health Fund
- More professionals to work in the field of health and also continuous updating for them along with information for the public to help do away with prejudice

- Mental health to become an integral part of disease management programmes, i.e. HIV/AIDS , cancer, etc.

- Enhancing NGOs role in managing contemporary types of disease

Goal 7

As

- The environment is a source of human life and growth

- Developed countries are greatly responsible for destroying the environment (agreements breached, nuclear tests, mass destruction weapons, industrial and toxic waste, deforestation, irrational use of modern technology, pesticides, garbage, etc.)

- Climatic change, global warming, extreme weather phenomena and the water issue are all acknowledged as critical for the future of mankind and sustainable growth

CALL FOR:

- Pressure on governments to sign international protocols and conventions on the environment

- The UN Summit in September to promote the complete review of the social and environmental repercussions of trade liberalisation

- More equitable water allocation between rich and poor, in the framework of a strong political negotiation and good management policies

- Water supply systems for smaller communities

- Initiatives for recycling and new energy sources and incentives for such type of initiative by the State

- Environmental education to be included in all education levels

- More public information on environmental issues, especially those which directly influence public health

- More intense environmental protection, primarily close to locations frequented by children

- More severe penalties for parties involved in any form of environmental demise.

Goal 8

As

- Goal 8 is a precondition for the success of the afore-mentioned goals and calls for a global deal: developed countries must take into account not only the needs of their own citizens but also the needs of others in their policies, while developing countries ought to provide guarantees for more credibility to the citizens and effective use of resources

CALL FOR:

- More specific directions and commitment as well as resources to ensure effectiveness for Goal 8

- Pressure on developed countries' governments to cut down on and/ or write off the debts of developed countries and to have more fair trade policies

- Enhanced complementarity on the global and regional level between developed and developing countries, NGOs and international organizations, to establish bridges leading to a faster and more effective implementation of MDGs and ensure global peace and stability.

- Support for collective observation as concerns programmes abroad, to facilitate the cultural rapprochement of local communities and NGO members

- A single accreditation system for NGOs, at national and international level, to facilitate cooperation between states and NGOs.

- More emphasis on free trade and economic issues, particularly transparency and proper governance